

FACT SHEET

CITY OF HAMILTON PROJECTS

The City of Hamilton submitted grant applications for two infrastructure projects. The facts below provide description of projects and funding strategy.

Upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plant, Phase 2

The wastewater project involves several pieces and is mostly driven by permit requirements from DEQ. The major parts of the project are installing a Ultra-Violet Disinfection system, expanding the lab and providing additional equipment, and replacing three blowers that provide air for plant processes. The UV system is required by the permit issued in September 2011 by DEQ to be installed and operational by January 2015. It is required to replace the current chlorination system to improve bacteria removal and protect aquatic life in the Bitterroot River. The same permit requires the city to triple and even quadruple the amount of lab testing required for monitoring of the sewer effluent. The current lab does not have the room in the current lab and some of the equipment needs to be replaced as it is too old to handle the increased testing program. We currently have two large and one small blower that are 30 years old and not reliable. With an aerobic, mechanical system we cannot operate without these blowers. Total project cost is \$2.3 million.

Funding Strategy: The original plan was to obtain grant funds from DNRC RRGL program, TSEP, and CDBG (\$1.2 million) and use a mixture of city funds and loans to make up the difference. The project is above the funding line for RRGL in the Governor's budget (#53) but below the funding line for TSEP (#48) (**NEED HELP**). The city raised the sewer rates 8% per year for three years in October to help pay for the loans related to this project. We do not feel we can raise the rates again and put an additional \$750,000 burden on the rate payers. **We are asking that Legislators fund the entire TSEP list, otherwise we have no choice but to down scope the project and risk future violations and maintenance issues.**

Well 5 Improvements

This project provides a well house for Well #5, connection to our main well farm for chlorination, along with SCADA controls to allow usage year-round. Additionally two 1,000 gpm booster pumps would be added. Currently this well only operates during the summer and must be winterized each year. This project improves water supply, significantly improves fire flow, and delays the need for a second million gallon storage tank for many years.

Funding Strategy: City applied for DNRC RRGL grant (\$100,000) plus available cash reserves. Project cost is \$950,000. Currently project is below funding line (#81) for RRGL. We believe we can still execute this project with cash and a small loan.